

BEAR UP A CHIMNEY

Bruin Had a Good Time Until It Was Smoked Out.

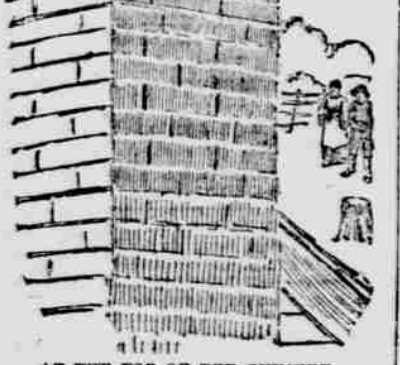
And Before Finding the Fireplace It Had Lots of Fun with Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. David—Killed After Long Delay.

The country round the headwaters of Styte creek in San Bernardino county, Cal., is wild and sparsely settled. Here and there are isolated farms or clearings in the pines, but the main dependence of the small population is fruit growing and mining. Wild animals are still numerous in this section, and life in the camp is varied by bear hunts.

William Hamilton and his wife, Grace, a New York Sun correspondent, live on one of the isolated farms. Hamilton has a honey-bee ranch and does placer mining in the canyon a few miles away, and his wife manages most of the farm work, which consists chiefly in cultivating vegetables and produce for their own use and keeping the cow and pigs. A few nights ago a pig was taken from the pen and carried off by a bear. The bear led Hamilton and two companions a long chase through the woods, and finally eluded them. Last Wednesday forenoon Mrs. Hamilton left a potato field where she was hoeing to go to the house to get dinner. On leaving the house in the morning she had not closed the outside kitchen door, and when she entered it on returning she saw a big bear walking about in the kitchen.

Mrs. Hamilton ran to the woodpile, got the ax, and hurrying back to the house, met the bear coming out. She opened an attack with the ax, and the bear retreated into the kitchen, closely followed by Mrs. Hamilton. She then started to get her husband, who was working in the woods about a mile off.

William David's mining claim is half a mile from Hamilton's house, and in the opposite direction from Hamilton's clearing. While Mrs. Hamilton was on her way to her husband, Mrs. David started for the Hamiltons' farm with a quart bowl to borrow vinegar. When she reached the house and was passing the sitting-room she was nearly frightened out of her senses by seeing the



AT THE TOP OF THE CHIMNEY.

head of a bear thrust out of the half-open window. Mrs. David hurried her bowl at the head and started back home as fast as she could run. On the way it occurred to her that she had not seen anything of Mrs. Hamilton about the farm, and she felt sure that the bear had killed and eaten that woman, and this she announced to her sixteen-year-old son John, the only person at some when she got there, pale and out of breath. John ridiculed her story, but took his shotgun and started for the house, accompanied by his mother. The cellar door was open, and young David thought if there really was a bear in the house it must be down cellar. So he started down the steps. He had gone but half way when he heard a snort, and the next instant the bear came out of the darkness that started up the steps toward him. The appearance of the animal was so sudden that the boy dropped his gun, came back up the steps at a bound and rushed out of the house, slamming the kitchen door behind him and leaving the bear a prisoner as before.

The boy's mother was just outside the door, and when he made his sudden exit from the house without his gun she ran toward home again, while her son went in the opposite direction. He had not gone far when he met Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton and a workman who had a rifle. After the party had reached the house and examined the interior through the windows without seeing the bear, they went in and prepared to hunt the animal in the cellar. With a lamp Hamilton and the workman went down the steps with great caution. The cellar was searched in every nook and corner, but no bear nor any sign of a bear could be found. While the party in the house were regretting the escape of the bear and the advisability of beginning a chase after it was discussed, loud shouting was heard outside. Mrs. David had come back with her husband. She was greatly surprised to see Mrs. Hamilton, who she firmly believed had been devoured by the bear, but wasted no time in informing the party that the bear was in the chimney, and that she had seen it poke its head out. While she was talking the bear substantiated her statement by showing its head again at the top of the chimney.

The bear had entered the chimney at the sitting-room fireplace, which was open, and worked itself up to the top. Before anybody could take aim and fire at its head the bear drew back out of sight, and as it did not appear again after the anxious group had waited nearly a quarter of an hour for it, Hamilton went into the house and lighted a bundle of straw on the hearth. As the dense smoke from the straw rolled up the chimney the bear scrambled out at the top and dropped to the roof. Mr. David sent a ball into one of its shoulders, and the bear rolled from the roof. It tried to rise and defend itself, but was too badly hurt, and a bullet from David's rifle killed it. The bear weighed nearly 400 pounds.

SILVER TIP AND TWO CUBS.

Not Looking for Bear, But Had to Face the Music.

Several years ago a band of Apache Indians, under the leadership of Geronimo, went on the warpath, and it was my good fortune to be one of a scouting party of United States cavalry sent from Fort Bayard, N. M., on the lookout for the band. We were traveling down a mountain stream in Arizona

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to find a trail for our animals, when our Indian scout suddenly halted, and, bending low in his saddle, whispered to me: "Shashi" which means in their language, bear. I looked in the direction he pointed and could see the back of a huge bear. We dismounted carefully, and leaving our horses and pack mules with two of the men who did not care to take part in the fracas, moved forward. I sent the Indian and one white man around by a circuitous route to approach the bear from the down-stream side. I then crawled forward until I reached a small sand dune about seventy-five yards from the bear. Then I took a careful survey of the object of our attack and found it was a silver tip and her two cubs. I had never fostered any idea about killing bear; but I was afraid to make any attempt to crawl back to where we left the horses. Extracting five or six cartridges from my belt and putting them between the fingers of my left hand, as I had seen soldiers at the competition do, I resolved to make an attack. The bear was now standing broadside to us, drinking from the stream. Planting my elbows firmly in the sand and taking careful aim, I fired. The bear gave a roar and came straight for me, but I drove a bullet into her shoulder which turned her, and then how I did shoot; the rapidity and effectiveness of my fire would have turned Dr. Carver green with envy. "Fear lent wings to my speed," I presume. At any rate, the fourth shot brought her down, but I still kept firing. Although I had broken her spine I did not intend to take any chances on her helplessness. Gradually she sank to the ground, her growls ceased, and walking up close to her a well-directed shot between the eyes put her out of her misery.

We found after skinning her that she had been hit twenty times, and I could see where my first shot broke her lower jaw. As soon as the shooting commenced one of the cubs took to the rocky hillside and escaped; the other remained with its mother, crawling back and forth over her body as she lay dying. We found upon riding up to our quarry that the cub had a broken leg, and a well-directed "butt shot" from the heelplate of a Springfield carbine, sent him on his way to join his mother in the happy hunting grounds.

Lashing the pelts on one of the pack mules, we traveled a few miles down stream and then went into camp for the night, much elated over our success, and although bears are quite plentiful throughout that region, we were not fortunate enough to find another, although bear signs were very numerous, but owing to the thick oak brush it is impossible to find them without the aid of a few good dogs—American Field.

New Way to Gain Time. John was a dull boy at his books, and although almost nine years old still had difficulty in spelling very short and easy words. But now and then he showed a gleam of something like intelligence. One day a younger scholar asked the teacher how to spell "hall." "What kind of 'hall'?" said the teacher. By a coincidence another child presently wanted to know how to spell "tare." "What kind of 'tare' do you mean?" the teacher inquired. That afternoon in the spelling class the teacher asked John to spell "sate." John did not remember, but he disliked to say so. "What kind of 'sate' do you mean?" he asked, with a very innocent drawl. "A youth's companion."

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